

REMARKS

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is being filed concurrently herewith to further prosecute this application in view of the finality of the Office Action mailed April 22, 2003.

Claims 2-4 and 9 remain withdrawn and claim 10 has been amended hereby. Accordingly, claims 10, 11, and 12 are presented for examination.

In the Office Action, the claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Uemura (US 5,495,125), Sugano et al. (US 5,198,888), Toshiba (JP 01-120875) and/or Matsushita (JP 48-93284). To the extent these grounds of rejections may be applied to the claims now pending herein, they are respectfully traversed.

Amended claim 1 now sets forth, in addition to the limitations introduced by previous Amendment, that (1) the second surface of the circuit substrate is opposite to and spaced from the first surface thicknesswise of the circuit substrate, and (2) that the protective package partially projects beyond both of the first and second surfaces of the substrate thicknesswise thereof. Sugano et al. clearly fails to disclose or suggest the newly added limitations of amended claim 10.

The new limitations (1) and (2) above are believed to patentably distinguish the present invention from the previously applied Sugano et al. (USP 5,1928,888) reference, especially in view of the interpretation by the Patent Office of that reference.

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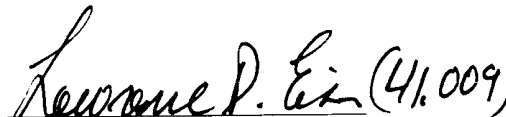
In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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